REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the present amendments and following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 are pending. Claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments. Support for the amendments can be found in Figure 6 and the corresponding disclosure. See e.g., page 16, line 19 - page 22, line 6 of the specification.

In prior art reservation systems including a plurality of reservation subjects, the reservation system "wizard" was complicated by the plurality of input components to be controlled. See the Specification page 2, lines 16-22. To that end, independent claim 1 is directed to a reservation registration apparatus for performing a reservation registration process of causing an arbitrary reservation subject to be manipulated at a specified starting time. The reservation registration apparatus includes, among other things, a selection mechanism. The input media is generated by at least one component.

The selection mechanism is configured to receive input media for said arbitrary reservation subject, the input media generated by at least one component. The selection mechanism includes:

an input selector configured to select said at least one component as an input,

a mixing device configured to mix analog, digital, and optical formats of said input media when more than one component is selected, and

an output selector configured to connect the at least one selected component with a selected output, the outputs including an analog output and a digital output ....

The reservation registration apparatus further includes a conversion mechanism configured to appropriately convert the formats of the input media generated by the at least one component so that the input media for the arbitrary reservation subject can be properly

performed, and a process control mechanism configured to control a power supply and to control the performance of the reservation subject according to the starting time of the reservation time.

Independent claim 7 is directed to a method of reservation registration for performing a reservation registration process of causing an arbitrary reservation subject to be manipulated at a specified starting time. The method includes, among other steps, receiving input media for the arbitrary reservation subject, where the input media is generated by at least one component; selecting said at least one component as an input; mixing analog, digital, and optical formats of said input media when more than one component is selected for input; connecting the selected input with a selected output, the outputs including an analog output and a digital output; and converting the formats of the input media generated by the at least one component so that the input media for the arbitrary reservation subject can be properly performed. Claim 13 is directed to a computer readable medium storing computer program instructions for implementing the method of claim 7.

The official action acknowledges that <u>Matoba</u>, <u>Pietropaolo</u>, <u>Mizuno</u>, and <u>Nakajima</u> do not teach "the ability to receive input media in mixed formats ... and convert format for use." Applicants agree. However, the official action asserts that <u>Gagnon</u> remedies this deficiency.

In contrast to the present invention (claim 1 as amended), however, <u>Gagnon</u> does not a selection mechanism as defined by claim 1. That is, <u>Gagnon</u> does not teach or suggest

> an input selector configured to select said at least one component as an input,
>
> a mixing device configured to mix analog, digital, and optical formats of said input media when more than one component is selected, and
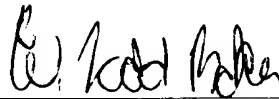>
> an output selector configured to connect the at least one selected component with a selected output, the outputs including an analog output and a digital output ....

Rather, <u>Gagnon</u> is directed to a satellite audio/video system and merely teaches in col. 1, lines 35-42, col. 8, lines 20-35, and col. 8, line 61 - col. 9, line 10 10-17 that the media broadcasted can be in various formats. However, <u>Gagnon</u> does not teach or suggest an input or output selector where the output selector can select digital and analog outputs. Further, <u>Gagnon</u> does not teach or suggest mixing formats when more than one component is selected for input. Consequently, if <u>Matoba</u>, <u>Pietropaolo</u>, <u>Mizuno</u>, and <u>Nakajima</u> were modified in view of <u>Gagnon</u>, the resulting system would not cure the deficiencies of the prior art where the input components to a reservation system were in various formats.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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